

MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD

For the Montana National Register of Historic Places Program and State Antiquities Database

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
Montana Historical Society
PO Box 201202, 1410 8th Ave
Helena, MT 59620-1202

Property Address: **Fort Harrison VA Hospital**

Historic Address (if applicable):

City/Town: **Fort Harrison, MT**

Site Number: **24 LC 123**

(An historic district number may also apply.)

County: **Lewis & Clark**

Historic Name: **Commanding Officer's Quarters (#35)**

Original Owner(s): **US Army**

Current Ownership: ☐ Private ☒ Public

Current Property Name: **Manager's Quarters**

Owner(s): **VA Montana Healthcare System Fort Harrison**

Owner Address: **3687 Veterans Drive
PO Box 1500
Fort Harrison, MT 59636**

Phone: **(406) 447-7371**

Legal Location

PM: **Montana** Township: **10N** Range: **4W**

SW¹/₄ **SW**¹/₄ **SW**¹/₄ of Section: **15**

Lot(s):

Block(s):

Addition: Year of Addition:

USGS Quad Name: **Helena, MT** Year: **1985**

Historic Use: **Residential**

Current Use: **Residential**

Construction Date: **1899** ☐ Estimated ☐ Actual

☒ Original Location ☐ Moved Date Moved:

UTM Reference www.nris.mt.gov/topofinder2

☒ NAD 27 (preferred) ☐ NAD 83

Zone: **12** Easting: **415463** Northing: **5162910**

National Register of Historic Places

NRHP Listing Date:

Historic District: **Fort Harrison VA Hospital Historic District**

NRHP Eligible: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Date of this document: **September 3, 2007**

Form Prepared by: **Jon Axline**

Address: **448 Parriman Street
Helena, MT 59602-7736**

Daytime Phone: **444-6258**

MT SHPO USE ONLY

Eligible for NRHP: ☐ yes ☐ no

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Date:

Evaluator:

Comments:

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Property Name: **Commanding Officers Quarters (#35)**

Site Number: **24 LC 123**

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

☐ See Additional Information Page

Architectural Style: **Queen Anne** If Other, specify:

Property Type: **Government** Specific Property Type: **Residential**

Architect: **Office of Quartermaster General** Architectural Firm/City/State: **Washington, DC**

Builder/Contractor: **Unknown** Company/City/State:

Source of Information: **Building Plans**

Concisely, accurately, and completely describe the property and alterations with dates. Number the buildings and features to correlate with the Site Map.

The Commanding Officer's Quarters (Building #35) is a 2½ story brick Queen Anne-style residence that was constructed in 1894 and currently serves as the Facilities Manager's residence. The building is oriented on a north-south axis and faces north onto General Eschenburg Lane. Multi-gable roofs cover an irregular plan. The roofs are sheathed in asphalt and the walls are comprised of brick. The foundation consists of rough-faced stone with a finished stone granite water table. The eaves are corniced with brackets and partially returned eaves. A corbelled brick belt course circles the house. The gable-ends have pressed tin siding. There are two circle top windows in the façade gable-end; both are 1/1 double-hung. Windows throughout are 6/2 double-hung windows with segmental brick arches and granite sills. There is an interior brick chimney. The residence has a daylight basement with all windows consisting of 3-light casements.

There are two windows on the left façade of the second floor. A gable-roofed bay is recessed on the right façade and faces west. The gable has a tin-sheathed gable-end with two circle top windows. The gable-end is pedimented with corniced eaves and brackets. A small window is located on the north elevation's second floor. There are windows on the left of the second floor and on the ground floor directly below them. A window is located midway on the wall on the right and corresponds with an interior stairway. There is a basement window directly below the left windows. In the southwest corner there is a small shed roof vestibule that opens to the west. The roof is sheathed in asphalt and the walls are clad in tongue-in-groove. A 6-light window is centrally located on the south wall. The entry has a wood paneled door with a metal storm addition.

The rear façade faces south. The rear gable-end has two circle top windows with 2/2 double-hung windows. The gable-end is sheathed in tin sheets. The second floor has windows on the right and left and there are three windows on the ground floor and three windows in the daylight basement. The east elevation has a full-length canted bay with a pent roof. On the third floor there are three 6/3 double-hung windows. The remaining two floors have 1/1 double-hung windows on the three sides. On the left elevation there are window openings on the ground and second floors. There is a gable-roof dormer with a pedimented gable-end. The roof is sheathed in asphalt as are the walls. The dormer has 4/2 double-hung windows on the right and left.

A hip-roof, open-air veranda on the east elevation and the façade. The roof is sheathed in asphalt. The roof is supported by Greek-style wooden columns with a Greek-style frieze with denticulation. The columns are paired and are supported by decorative piers with recessed panels. A low spindle railing encloses the veranda. The veranda rests on brick piers. There are two windows on sheltered by the veranda on the east that correspond to two windows on the second floor above them. The entry to the veranda is on the right and reached by wooden steps flanked by wood handrails. The entry is on the right façade and has a segmental brick arch lintel. The entry has a wood paneled door with a modern screen door addition. A window is located to the left of the entry and paired windows are located on the left façade. A secondary entry is located on the right façade. It has a wood-paneled entry with a screen addition.

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Property Name: **Commanding Officers Quarters (#35)**

Site Number: **24 LC 123**

HISTORY OF PROPERTY

☐ See Additional Information Page

In June 1897, Fort Harrison Quartermaster Captain Francis B. Jones received orders from Washington DC to proceed with the construction of the Commanding Officers Quarters, along with a barracks, officers quarters, and non-commissioned officers quarters. Building #35 is the only structure remaining from that second flurry of activity at the post. The total cost of the improvements was \$36,000. The design of the residence was based on standardized designs developed by the US Army. It was designed by the Office of the Quartermaster General in August 1897 and was built by an unknown contractor in 1899 and served as the commanding officers quarters until 1912. It currently functions as the residence for the site's Facilities Manager (Campbell 2, 1964: 154; Building Plans).

INFORMATION SOURCES/BIBLIOGRAPHY

☐ See Additional Information Page

Building Plans: Commanding Officers Quarters (Building No. 35). Facilities Managers Office. Fort Harrison VA Center. Helena, Montana.

Campbell, William C. *From the Quarries of Last Chance Gulch*. Volume 2 (Helena: Thurber Printing, 1964).

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Property Name: **Commanding Officers Quarters (#35)**

Site Number: **24 LC 123**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

NRHP Listing Date:

NRHP Eligibility: ☒ Yes ☐ No ☒ Individually ☒ Contributing to Historic District ☐ Noncontributing to Historic District

NRHP Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Area of Significance: Period of Significance:

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

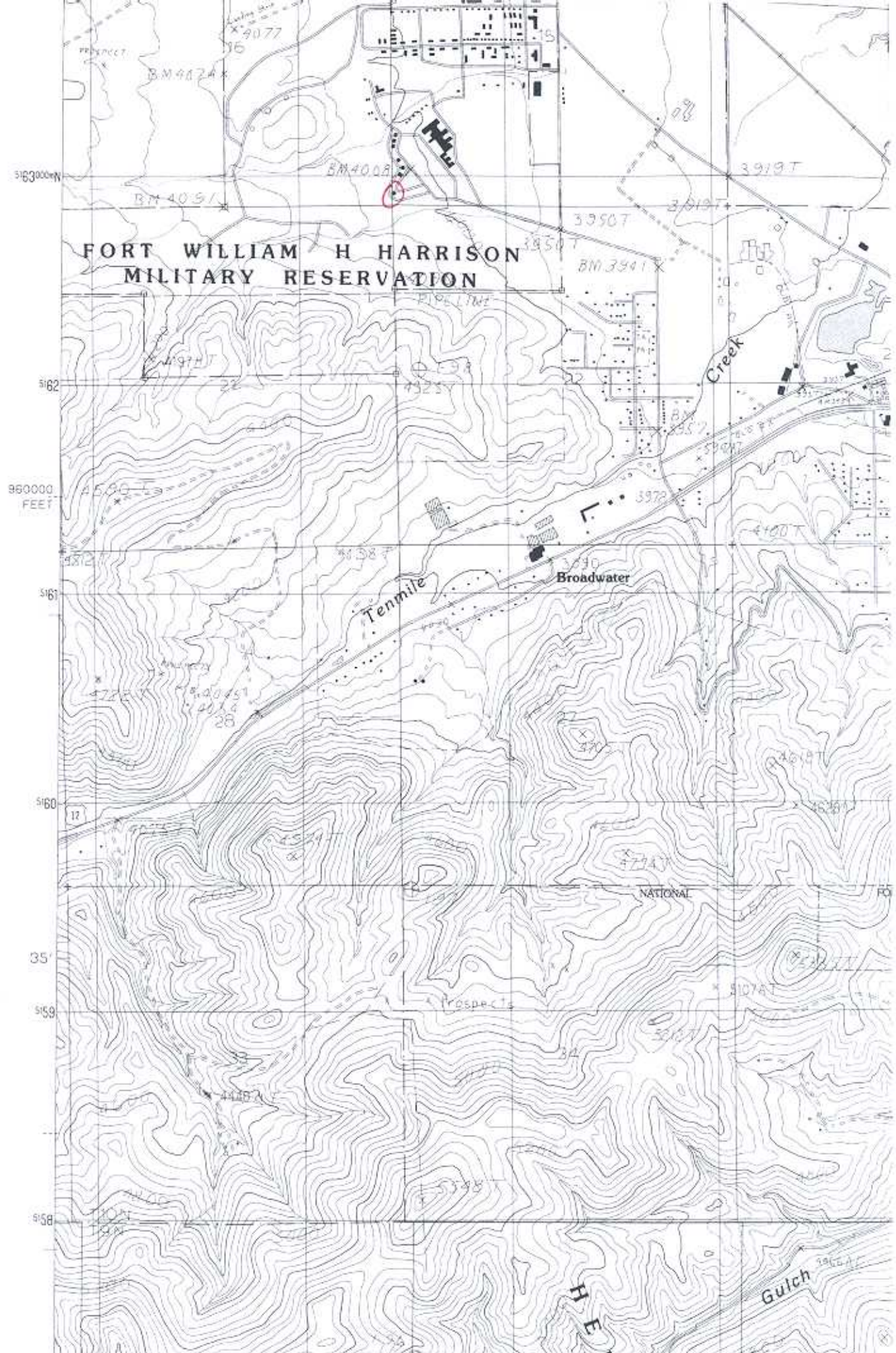
☐ See Additional Information Page

The Commanding Officer's Quarters is the centerpiece of the residential quarters located along the west side of Fort Harrison's parade ground. It is located adjacent to general officer's quarters and was designed to provide the necessary dignity to Officer's Row. Constructed in 1899, it is associated with the initial phase of development at the post by the military in the 1890s. It is a splendid example of an ornate Queen Anne style residence that is comprised of brick with a multi-gable roof and a canted full-length bay. It has the prerequisite stone foundation and ornamental window openings. Unlike the other quarters on the post, it has an ornamental roof line with dentils and brackets, decorative gable-ends and gable-end windows, and an intact Neoclassical style wrap-around veranda. The building is still the showpiece of Officer's Row and is individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It would also qualify as a primary contributing component to the Fort Harrison VA Hospital Historic District.

INTEGRITY (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association)

☐ See Additional Information Page

There do not appear to have been any significant modifications made to the exterior of the residence since its construction in 1894. It is comprised of brick and stone and retains all of its original structural and decorative details consistent with Queen Anne-style residences. The setting of the residence is also intact.



MONTANA HISTORIC PROPERTY RECORD

PHOTOGRAPHS

Property Name: **Commanding Officers Quarters (#35)**

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Roll #

Frame # **125**

Feature # **35**

Facing: **S**

Description: **Facade**



Roll #

Frame # **281**

Feature # **35**

Facing: **SW**

Description: **Façade & west elevation**